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INFORMATION FROM FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY

USSR - Karelo-Finnish Republic

DATE OF

1951 INFORMATION

SUBJECT

Scientific - Miscellaneous, Academy of Sciences

HOW

Daily newspaper

DATE DIST. 5 Jul 1951

WHERE

PUBLISHED

PUBLISHED

Pe+rozavodsk

NO. OF PAGES

DATE

PUBLISHED

21 Mar 1951

SUPPLEMENT TO

LANGUAGE

Russian

REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

Leminskove Znamya

SCIENTIFIC SESSION OF THE KARELO-FINNISH AFFILIATE, ACADEMY OF SCIENCES USSR

On 15 March 1951, the Karelo-Finnish Affiliate, Academy of Sciences USSR, held its second scientific session. The sessions, which lasted 3 days, heard over 60 reports submitted by representatives of industry, trade unions, and other scientific activities from Moscow, Leningrad, Murmansk, and Arkhangel'sk oblasts.

This session indicated that the work of the Karelo-Finnish Affiliate had expanded considerably in the postwar period, but that, nevertheless, there were some serious deficiencies in the work of its scientific research institutes.

In general, the work of the Geology Sector was very effective. Professor P. A. Borisov, chief of this sector, in his report listed the work accomplished by the sector and pointed out its great contributions to the national economy by studies of the mineral resources of the republic.

The work of the Sector of Hydrology and Water Economy was carried out so as to best serve the national economy. This fact was well brought out in reports by Candidate of Technical Sciences S. V. Grigor yev, and Scientific Associates N. M. Lazarevskaya, K. D. Mashkantsev, L. K. Popenko, and G. L. Panasyuk. There were some recommendations as to means whereby the sector could improve its work, particularly with respect to placing greater emphasis on studies of electrification of kolkhozes.

The session stressed the importance of work being conducted by the Zoology Sector. Much of the work currently done in this sector (Chief, Professor I. F. Pravdin) involves the study of the fish economy of the White Sea and some of the inland water bodies of Karelia. The Laboratory of Parasitology is conducting research to determine methods for combating parasites which cause diseases in man and animals. Interesting reports were submitted by Professors I. F. Pravdin, S. V. Gerd and Ye. M. Kheysin, Deputy to the Supreme Soviet A. S. Lutta, Candidate of Biological Sciences, Honored Doctor of the Republic S. A. Vishnevskiy, and others.

-1-

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However, it was noted that dertain aspects of the work of the Zoology Sector had serious weakheases. In the first place, insufficient emphasis was placed on actual assistance to fishing establishments on the White Sea, and there was, in addition, a complete lack of assistance to animal-husbandry kolkhozes and soukhozes.

The Forestry Sector, one of the youngest branches of the affiliate, is constantly prowing in importance. Engineer T. I. Kishchenko recommended a more effect in method for utilizing the TL-3 trailer crane which was heartly endorsed by the ministries of for-atry for the USSR and the Karelo-Finnish SSR. National economic significance is attached to the work done by I. Pervozvanskiy and N. Koshmilov with respect to the development of the wood-chemistry industry.

In spite of the excellent afforts of this sector, some criticism was due in view of the limited research program which it had established.

Much valuable work was described out by the various social science institutes of the affiliate. However, even these institutes were criticized for their socialled non-critical attitude toward the new teachings in languages as initiated by N. Ya. Marr.

The Soils-Botamical Sector heard nine reports. Much interest was given a report by I. A. Petrov, chief of the sector, entitled, "The Use of Rock-Pilled Drainage Channels for the Reclamation of Karelian Soils." This work was of particular value because the high moisture content of Karelian soils requires the construction of numerous drainage canals which greatly hamper the operations of tractors. Under the new system, canals would be dug, filled with rocks, then covered and planted, thus presenting an unbroken field and greatly facilitating the operation of tractor-drawn facm implements.

Candidate of Geologico-Mineralological Sciences L. Ya. Lepin also submitted an interesting report entitled, "Compilation of a List of Karelo-Finnish Marshes Which Might be Used for Farming." The affiliate attached such importance to this work that it formed a new division, Division of Reclamation and Marsh Studies, which has an experimental farm station.

During the latter part of the sessions various criticism were aired. The most prevalent shortcomings of the work of the affiliate apparently were caused by a lack of close limiton with kolkhozen and sovkhozes to determine some of the real problems which needed solutions.

The highlight of the sessions was a report submitted by Scientific Associate A. I. Andriaynets entitled "Finnish Burgeois Falsification of Facts Pertaining to the 1939 - 1940 Finnish War." The blame for this falsification was placed on Anglo-American imperialists who are attempting to vitiate the fact that it was the Finns who had aggressive intentions against Soviet Karelia and the Kola Peninsula.

The closing speech was delivered by I. T. Gorskiy, chairman of the Presidium, Karelo-Finnish Affiliate, Academy of Sciences USSR, who summed up the results of the sessions and noted the value of holding such affiliate-wide meetings.

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